

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending and were rejected. Claim 3 was amended herein to correct a typographical error. No claims have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejections of all pending claims is requested.

I. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-10 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as claims 1-24 of application US 2005/0110755. Because this is a provisional rejection, the applicants will address this rejection when either set of claims issue.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-10 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherriff (GB 2,247,938) in view of Burrett (5,615,083).

CLAIM 1

Claim 1 is independent and is reprinted as follows for convenience:

1. (Original) A pointing device comprising:
a puck sub-assembly comprising:
 a moveable puck confined to move within a puck field of motion;
 and
 a support member having an opening therein that determines a boundary for said puck field of motion;
a base sub-assembly comprising:

a base surface over which said puck moves; and
 a position detector that measures the position of said puck in said
 puck field of motion; and
 an attachment mechanism for connecting said base sub-assembly to said
 puck sub-assembly such that said puck sub-assembly is reversibly separable
 from said base assembly, and said base surface is accessible when said puck
 sub-assembly is separated from said base assembly.

According to the office action, Sherriff does not teach the attachment element of claim 1. Furthermore, according to the office action, the attachment element of claim 1 is taught by Burrett. The office action references column 5, lines 5-45 and elements 112 and 150 of Burrett to show the attachment element of claim 1.

The applicants note that the attachment element of claim 1 recites that the base sub-assembly and the puck sub-assembly are reversibly separable from one another. The applicants further note that the puck sub-assembly includes the puck and a support member. The base sub-assembly includes a base over which the puck moves and a position detector that measures the position of the puck in its field of motion. It is noted that when the sub-assemblies are separated, the base surface is accessible.

The joystick disclosed in burrett is a pointing device that attaches to a computer and is not separable as claimed in claim 1. Rather, the whole pointing device, which may include a base sub-assembly and a puck sub-assembly, is removable from the computer. The office action refers to column 5, lines 5-45 as teaching the attachment mechanism of claim 1. As stated above, this section of Burrett only teach that the joystick is attachable and detachable to the computer. There is no disclosure in Burrett regarding a base assembly being accessible when the joystick is removed from the computer. In addition, there is no disclosure regarding any components of the joystick being reversibly separable.

The applicants note that column 4, lines 42-44 indicate that the joystick is a standard joystick; this section of Burrett is reprinted as follows for convenience:

Joystick 150 comprises a standard joystick 151, such as a Logitech Wingman or a Gravis Pro Joystick, having the mounting bracket 152 coupled to its base.

The joystick of Burrett being a standard type joystick and not a device wherein a base sub-assembly is reversibly separable from a puck sub-assembly is shown again as follows at column 4, lines 31-35, where Burrett describes that a standard joystick is connectable to the computer:

A standard game port 116 is positioned within the hole 114 and coupled to a computer system board with a flexible connector (not shown) to ensure repeated attachments and detachments of the joystick 150 do not stress the system board.

At column 4, lines 53-64, Burrett again describes the electrical connection between the computer and the joystick. In summary, the joystick described in Burrett is a complete device that plugs into the computer and, thus, does not include the claimed attachment mechanism described above. This portion of Burrett is described as follows:

The bracket 152 is formed to fit snugly in the hole 114 to ensure stability of the joystick 150 when used in a normal game playing manner. A standard game port plug 153 is integrated in the bottom of the mounting bracket 152 and designed to provide electrical contact with the game port 116 when the joystick is secured in the hole 114 by the retractable collar 117. Both the game port 116 and the game port plug 153 are suitably keyed to ensure proper electrical connections are made. An alternate embodiment replaces game port 116 and game port plug 153 with connectors compatible with the emerging Universal Serial Bus specifications.

As set forth above, Burrett does not disclose the attachment mechanism of claim 1. Rather, Burrett discloses an whole joystick that fits within a computer. Accordingly, the references cited in the office action do not disclose all the elements of claim 1 and cannot render claim 1 obvious. More specifically, Burrett does not disclose a pointing device comprising "an attachment mechanism for connecting said base sub-assembly to said puck sub-assembly such that said puck sub-assembly is reversibly separable from said base assembly, and said base surface is accessible when said puck sub-assembly is separated from said base assembly" as claimed in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

CLAIMS 2-10

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons. Therefore, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejections.

In view of the above, all of the pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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